



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
BUREAU OF TENNCARE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT FROM DARIN GORDON, TENNCARE DIRECTOR, REGARDING TENNCARE'S WAIVER NEGOTIATION WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

"TennCare has requested and received a third waiver extension through August 31, after attempts to communicate with CMS during the last extension period were not as productive as expected. The federal government had committed to communicating with the state early in the extension period to give ample time for constructive dialogue on the remaining issues. However we were not able to reach agreement prior to the existing extension deadline. While the state and CMS are still far apart in financial aspects of the waiver negotiation, we remain hopeful that we can reach a waiver agreement that is less punitive to Tennessee than the current CMS proposal that reduces TennCare's budget over three years by approximately \$385 million."

TennCare is Tennessee's expanded Medicaid program, providing health insurance coverage to 1.2 million Tennesseans, including 640,000 children. For more information about TennCare, visit www.tennessee.gov/tenncare

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Editor note: Background information on the previous two waiver extensions from our news release archive can be found at the following web addresses:

<http://state.tn.us/tenncare/news-290607.html>

<http://state.tn.us/tenncare/news-130707.html>